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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE: 25X1A

INFO.

SUBJECT Tank Repair Unit at Wittenberg

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ORIGIN

This document is hereby regraded to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Declassify Date: 2038

24
24 July 1947

SUPPLEMENT

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1. An armored army repair unit is located in Wittenberg (E37) under the command of Major Alexander Zhiridov. All tank repairs are made by Soviet personnel; work on trucks and passenger cars is performed by German laborers. Overhauling of all tanks began about 1 May 1947.
2. Source of Paragraph 1, reporting that Major Zhiridov talks as if he plans to desert, remarks that there has been an increasing number of desertions in the Magdeburg area. Only a few border stations include Soviet personnel, and the German police are not difficult to pass if identity papers appear to be in order.
3. General Kirsanov is identified as the commanding general of the Third Army in Magdeburg.
4. An untested informant in the Magdeburg area has supplied the following items, dated 8 to 12 June 1947.

- a. Large Russian troop contingents have left Magdeburg. Their departure was preceded by the disposal of hoarded food and luxury goods. Some of these soldiers stated that they were returning to Russia. A number of dependents have been returned to the USSR.
- b. On 10 June 1947, the long distance telephone exchange in Magdeburg was returned to the German authorities and Russian personnel was withdrawn.
- c. On 11 June, between 0200 and 0400 hours, special trains arrived in Magdeburg from the east. These trains carried young soldiers who were billeted in, and restricted to, local barracks. Some of these new units are reported to have taken over some Magdeburg hospitals.

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Document No. 009

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 18 APR 1978 By: VAX

Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000700510009-3

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